



# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending February 25, 2017

Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau  
 Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
 Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.*

## SUMMARY

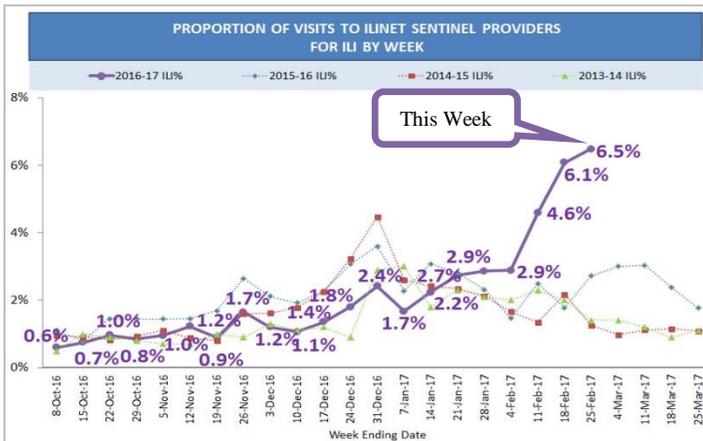
During the week ending February 25, 2017, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **HIGH** and there was **WIDESPREAD** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI increased as reported by both Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI also increased. The proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories was high and increased further from last week. A total of 180 specimens tested positive for influenza at the DHMH lab – most were influenza Type A (H3). There were 332 hospitalizations and 14 respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH. Nationally, influenza activity remained high.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels	Influenza Geographic Activity
Minimal	No Activity
Low	Sporadic
Moderate	Local
<b>✓ High</b>	Regional
	<b>✓ Widespread</b>

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

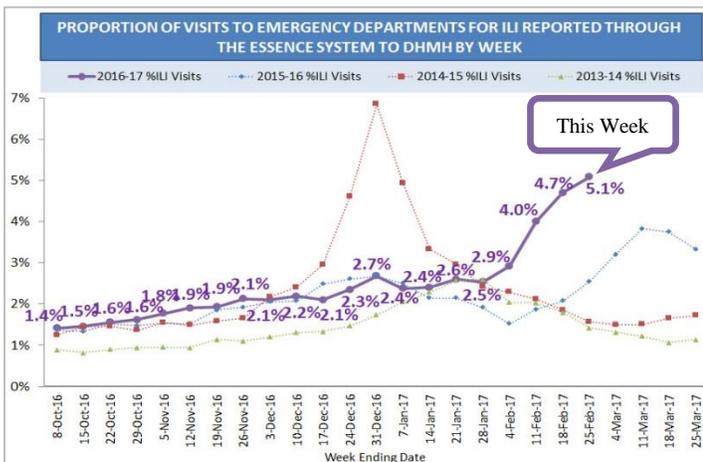
Thirty-five sentinel providers reported a total of 7,513 visits this week. Of those, 487 (6.5%) were visits for ILI. This is well **above** the Maryland baseline of **2.2%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	66 (14%)	80 (14%)	832 (21%)
Age 5-24	247 (51%)	298 (51%)	1676 (43%)
Age 25-49	91 (19%)	122 (21%)	774 (20%)
Age 50-64	47 (10%)	50 (9%)	375 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	36 (7%)	31 (5%)	241 (6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>487 (100%)</b>	<b>581 (100%)</b>	<b>3898 (100%)</b>

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 49,791 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 2,532 (5.1%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	469 (19%)	416 (18%)	6699 (28%)
Age 5-24	876 (35%)	889 (39%)	7281 (30%)
Age 25-49	651 (26%)	503 (22%)	5800 (24%)
Age 50-64	297 (12%)	253 (11%)	2515 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	239 (9%)	201 (9%)	1902 (8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2532 (100%)</b>	<b>2262 (100%)</b>	<b>24197 (100%)</b>

### Neighboring states' influenza information:

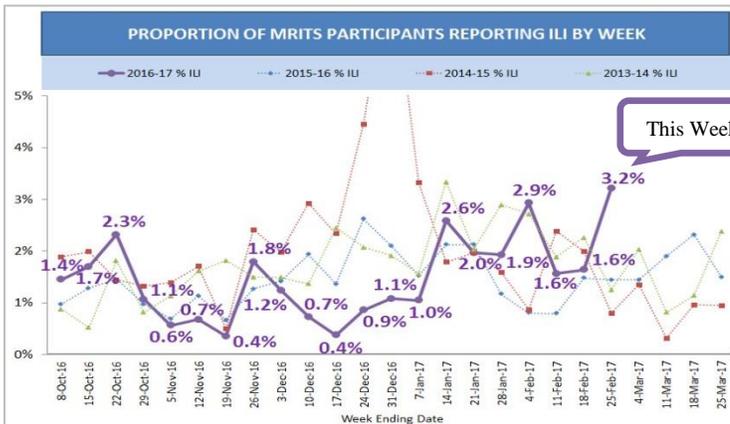
- Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
- District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
- Pennsylvania <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/I-L/Pages/Influenza.aspx#.V-LtaPkrJD8>
- Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/influenza-surveillance/>
- West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

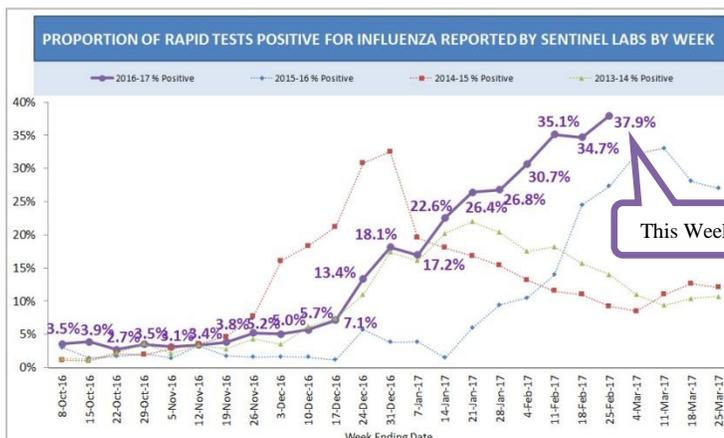
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 591 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 19 (3.2%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 47 days of regular daily activities.



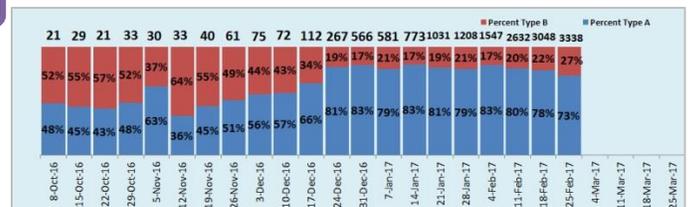
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	2 (11%)	--	6 (3%)
Age 5-24	5 (26%)	2 (22%)	49 (28%)
Age 25-49	2 (11%)	--	44 (25%)
Age 50-64	5 (26%)	5 (56%)	44 (25%)
Age ≥ 65	5 (26%)	2 (22%)	32 (18%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>19 (100%)</b>	<b>9 (100%)</b>	<b>175 (100%)</b>

## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Fifty-three clinical laboratories reported performing 8,800 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 3,338 (37.9%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 2,442 (73.2%) were influenza Type A and 896 (26.8%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

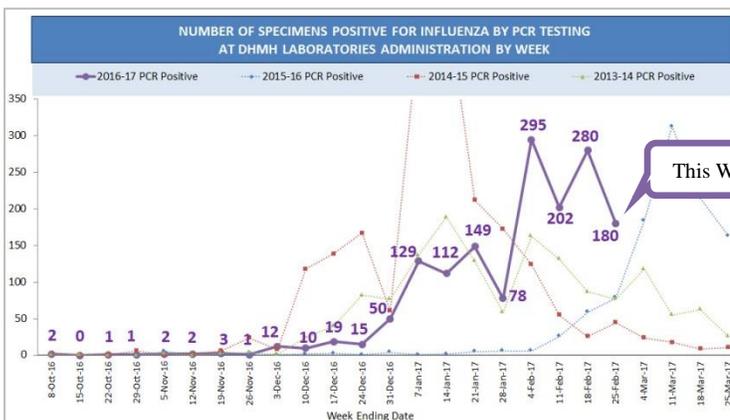


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	2442 (73%)	2381 (78%)	12076 (78%)
Type B	896 (27%)	667 (22%)	3442 (22%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3338 (100%)</b>	<b>3048 (100%)</b>	<b>15518 (100%)</b>



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 231 PCR tests for influenza and 180 (77.9%) specimens tested positive. Of those testing positive, 160 (88.9%) were positive for Type A (H3), 17 (9.4%) were positive for Type B (Yamagata), and 3 (1.7%) were positive for Type B (Victoria). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	1 (<1%)	32 (2%)
Type A (H3)	160 (89%)	238 (85%)	1358 (88%)
Type B (Victoria)	3 (2%)	15 (5%)	32 (2%)
Type B (Yamagata)	17 (9%)	26 (9%)	121 (8%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>180 (100%)</b>	<b>280 (100%)</b>	<b>1543 (100%)</b>

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

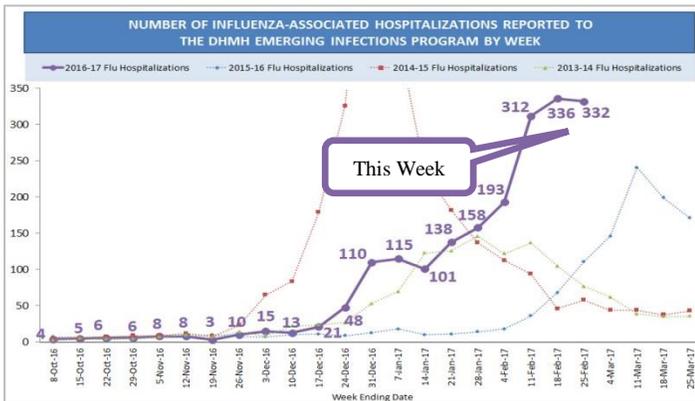
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2016-17 influenza season? Go to <http://phpa.dhmm.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

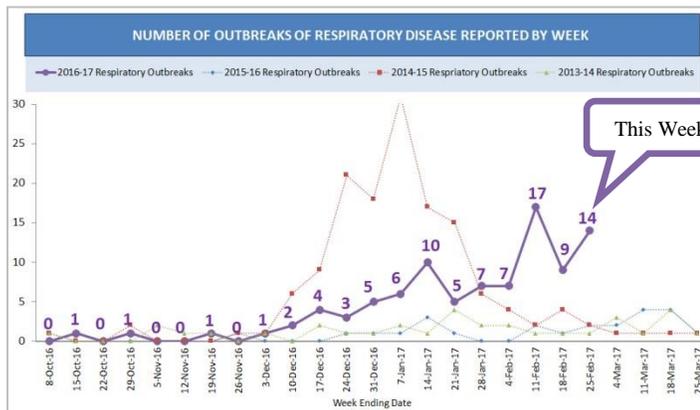
A total of 332 hospitalizations were reported this week. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g., RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	26 (8%)	21 (6%)	113 (6%)
Age 5-17	23 (7%)	23 (7%)	121 (6%)
Age 18-24	10 (3%)	16 (5%)	53 (3%)
Age 25-49	34 (10%)	36 (11%)	195 (10%)
Age 50-64	52 (16%)	66 (20%)	355 (18%)
Age ≥ 65	187 (56%)	174 (52%)	1105 (57%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>332 (100%)</b>	<b>336 (100%)</b>	<b>1942 (100%)</b>

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were 14 respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g., from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	11 (79%)	5 (56%)	62 (67%)
Influenza-like Illness	3 (21%)	3 (33%)	24 (26%)
Pneumonia	--	1 (11%)	7 (8%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 (100%)</b>	<b>9 (100%)</b>	<b>93 (100%)</b>

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 8 (February 19-25 2017), influenza activity remained elevated in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus subtype reported by public health laboratories during week 8 was influenza A (H3). The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories remained elevated.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** Six influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 39.4 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 4.8%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above their region-specific baseline levels. 27 states experienced high ILI activity; four states experienced moderate ILI activity; New York City, Puerto Rico and six states experienced low ILI activity; 13 states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and 43 states was reported as widespread; Guam and five states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia and two states reported local activity; and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported sporadic activity.

